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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953



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BOROUGH OF HARTLEPOOL

Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee, 1953-54.

Chairman - - Alderman F. Windebank

Deputy Chairman - - Councillor Mrs. J. Flewker

Aldermen - - F. J. Carr
G. Davison
H. Lightfoot

Councillors - - T. T. Aird
E. Friel
F. Jacques
J. McKenna
A. J. Orley
Mrs. M. E. Smith
J. Westmorland

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Assistant County Medical Officer and
School Medical Officer :

J. L. SIDDLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors, Meat and Food Inspectors :

G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. TAYLOR

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Miss A. BENDELOW, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., S.C.M.

Miss M. BUCHANAN, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., S.C.M.

Miss S. HOOD, S.R.N.

Clerks :

Miss M. WHEATLEY

Mr. J. J. PRYDE

Miss J. A. PALLISTER

*Health Department,
Frederic Street,
Hartlepool.*

To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report on the health of the people of the Borough of Hartlepool for the year, 1953.

The death rate for the town for the year is a little above that for England and Wales whilst the birth rate also continues at a rather higher level.

The infantile mortality rate has fallen to a level nearer that for England and Wales. There have unfortunately been two deaths under the heading "childbearing and pregnancy"—these end the clean sheet which has held good since 1947. No cases of diphtheria were notified for the third consecutive year and the number of other infectious diseases during the year has been small.

Slum clearance and building of houses has continued and must continue unabated if we are in the future to get a continued improvement in the health of the population.

I think on the whole a satisfactory year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. SIDDLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY RATES in the Year 1953.

England and Wales, 126 County Boroughs & Great Towns,
and 148 Smaller Towns.

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 census)	London Administrative County	Hartlepool
<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>					
Births—					
Live Births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	21.6*
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.33	0.59
Deaths—					
All causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	12.6*
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.47
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polio-ence- phalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.47

*Adjusted by comparability factor for comparison purposes.

	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</i>				
Deaths—					
All causes under one year of age	26.8	30.8	24.3	24.8	36.9
Enteritis and Diar- rhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.0

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

Area (Acres)	1,841
Population (Census 1951)	17,217
Population (estimated mid 1953)	16,940
Rateable Value	£84,116
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£310 (<i>est.</i>)
Total Number of Dwelling houses at 31.12.53	4,986
Number of new houses completed in 1953	148

POPULATION.

The estimated population mid-1953 as supplied by the Registrar-General was 16,940 as compared with 17,080 for 1952.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Registrar General's Estimated Population</i>
1940	15,530
1941	15,280
1942	14,840
1943	14,510
1944	14,740
1945	14,950
1946	15,780
1947	16,020
1948	16,660
1949	16,900
1950	16,940
1951	16,990
Population by 1951 Census	17,217
1952	17,080
1953	16,940

The distribution of the population throughout the wards during the year is indicated by the following figures of the number of electors in each ward :—

St. Hilda—2,159	Station—1,513	Throston—1,891
Central—1,749	Brus—1,825	Hart—2,150

HOUSING.

I have repeatedly stated that so far as a district council is concerned housing is the most important single factor available to them whereby they can bring about improvement in the health of the population.

The provision of housing by a local authority is for the purpose of improving the wellbeing and health of the population and as such it is obvious that houses should be allocated according to need from the health viewpoint.

There are three main groups into which applicants can be divided—this is of course excluding special cases which are dealt with outside the points scheme—i.e. those applicants who are in insanitary dwellings, those overcrowded and those “living-in.” In attempting to assess their relative needs we must consider the effect of their present conditions in relation to health. Insanitary dwellings are without a shadow of doubt a menace to the health of all the occupants be they children or adults. Overcrowding is also a menace but here we must consider the degree of overcrowding. In the Borough during the year families have been rehoused for overcrowding at the level of 12 points on the Council’s points scheme. This degree of overcrowding is not very acute and if assessed on the legal basis most of these people would show very little overcrowding. Below is given an analysis of the applicants on the housing list together with a table showing how the overcrowding cases are divided up. Unfortunately it has not been possible to consider size of bedrooms but even so the table does not demonstrate overcrowding in a very large number of families and the overcrowding as shewn cannot be blamed for any great degree of ill-health.

Living-in provided without overcrowding has the additional hazard of causing psychological upsets. Much of the living-in takes place at West View, where the houses have reasonably modern amenities.

Looking at the problem as a whole it is my view that the most important factor in regard to housing in Hartlepool is to get rid of the insanitary houses as quickly as possible and to do this we must give as big as possible an allocation of new houses to slum clearance.

The state of housing on the headland becomes progressively worse as the years go by. Many houses are not suitable for reconditioning nor do they warrant any great expenditure on repair work. It is only the lack of alternative accommodation that warrants their continued use.

Housing Statistics.

No. of applicants on Waiting List as at 31st December, 1953	1259
No. of houses completed and let 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1953	147
No. of other houses becoming available for letting during same period	25
No. of families rehoused as special cases on medical grounds	5
No. of families rehoused on account of Tuberculosis ..	5

The figure of 1,259 applicants for Council houses must be analysed in order to assess the position wherein there are this number of applicants in a town with 4,986 houses, 1,160 of which have been built since the end of the war.

The applicants can be divided up thus :—

Families outside Hartlepool	98
“Doubled-up” families living with relatives	365
Families having own tenancy but living in overcrowded conditions as assessed by the Council’s points scheme	228
From families in houses scheduled for closure or for demolition	92
From families having own tenancy but no overcrowding ..	476
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"/> 1,259 <hr style="width: 100%; border: none; border-top: 3px double black; margin-top: 2px;"/>

The housing problem will, of course, not be solved until all the doubled-up families are rehoused irrespective of number of points.

With regard to overcrowded families I have already pointed out that the degree of overcrowding is in the bulk of cases negligible

In point of fact of the 1,259 applicants for Council houses approximately 40% have no real need from a health point of view but are desirous of obtaining a more modern house with improved amenities—a desire which is quite understandable and one which must show itself increasingly if the health education schemes now in being are of any value whatsoever.

Analysis of bedroom accommodation of applications (as on 1st May, 1954), which are graded as overcrowded.

<i>No. of persons in Family (children under 10 yrs. counted as $\frac{1}{2}$)</i>	<i>No. of Bedrooms in house (excluding those under 50 sq. ft. and excluding parlours)</i>			
	<i>1 bedroom</i>	<i>2 bedrooms</i>	<i>3 bedrooms</i>	<i>4 bedrooms</i>
2½	39	3	—	—
3	29	19	—	—
3½	11	21	4	—
4	1	46	9	—
4½	1	10	2	—
5		8	13	—
5½		4	3	—
6		2	5	1
6½		2	1	1
7		2	2	1
8				
9			1	

BIRTHS.

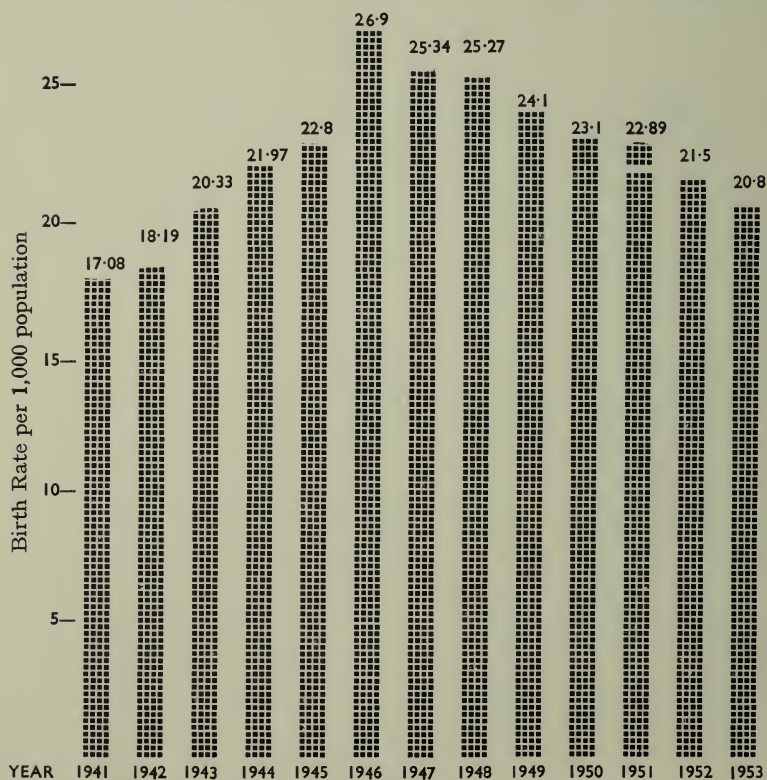
There were 352 live births in the Borough in 1953 as compared with 367 in 1952. The crude birth rate for 1953 was 20.8. A glance at the diagram below shows that the steady decline in the birth rate since 1946 has continued.

The birth rate for the town, however, continues at a level higher than the average for England and Wales.

The total births were made up as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—			
Legitimate	182	163	345
Illegitimate	3	4	7
Still Births—			
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Borough of Hartlepool—Crude Birth Rate 1941-1953.



DEATHS.

There were 185 deaths which in a population of 16,940 makes a crude death rate of 10.9. The crude death rate for 1952 was 9.7.

Borough of Hartlepool.—Table to show causes of death during 1953 together with percentages of the total for the 3 main causes and for Tuberculosis.

(Figures for 1952 are given for comparison).

CAUSES OF DEATH	1953			1952		
	M	F	% of total of main causes of death	M	F	% of total of main causes of death
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	3	4.3%	—	2	1.2%
Tuberculosis, other	—	—		—	—	
Syphilitic disease	—	—		—	—	
Diphtheria	—	—		—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	—		—	—	
Meningococcal infections	—	—		—	—	
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—		—	—	
Measles	—	—		1	—	
Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—		—	—	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	7	4	13%	6	—	15. %
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	—		3	1	
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	2		—	1	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	2		—	1	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4		11	2	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—		—	1	
Diabetes	—	—		—	—	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	17	47.5%	10	14	47.3%
Coronary disease, angina	18	6		14	12	
Hypertension with heart disease ..	3	3		—	2	
Other heart disease	3	10		10	10	
Other circulatory disease	10	3		5	2	
Influenza	—	—	9.7%	1	—	12.6%
Pneumonia	2	6		4	3	
Bronchitis	3	7		10	4	
Other diseases of resp. system ..	—	—		1	2	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	—	—		1	1	
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea ..	1	—		—	4	
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—		3	—	
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—		3	—	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	2		—	—	
Congenital malformations	—	—		2	—	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	11		12	4	
Motor vehicles accidents	2	—		2	—	
All other accidents	4	1		1	1	
Suicide	1	—		—	—	
Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—		—	—	

The main causes of death in order of importance are unchanged viz : diseases of the heart and blood vessels ; cancer ; pneumonia and bronchitis. The relative importance of diseases of the heart and blood vessels has increased so that now almost half of the deaths in the town come under this heading. For the year, deaths in this group are $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as high as those from cancer. It is of interest to note that there were 11 male deaths from cancer of the lung. This figure is in keeping with the general trend in the country and is much higher than any previous figure for this disease in Hartlepool. The great increase in deaths from this cause in the country over the past half-a-century has caused much investigation and discussion. In any case whatever the causal agent or agents may be it is obvious that living in Hartlepool does not exempt one from the danger of developing the disease.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES for HARTLEPOOL.

Hospitals (under the control of the Hartlepoons Hospitals Management Committee).

Infectious Diseases. These are admitted to Brierton Hospital which still maintains a number of beds for the common infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis. Brierton Hospital is now in the main a hospital for cases of tuberculosis. Cases for whose treatment facilities are not available there, are admitted to hospitals outside the area.

General Hospitals. Hospitals in the area to which Hartlepool people are sent are the General Hospital and the Cameron Hospital in West Hartlepool and the Hartlepoons Hospital in Hartlepool.

General Medical Practitioners.

The Executive Council for the County of Durham is the body responsible for administration of the National Health Service insofar as the General Practitioner Service in Hartlepool is concerned.

Midwives. The Domiciliary Midwifery Service is a County Council service. The midwives serving Hartlepool :—Nurse E. E. Lee, 13 West View, Hartlepool ; Nurse E. Foster, 75 Marine Drive, Hartlepool and Nurse Ashton, The Bungalow, Grove Street, Hartlepool.

Home Nursing Service. Home nursing is the responsibility of Durham County Council. There are two nurses :—Nurse Carter, 22 Hepscott Avenue, Blackhall and Nurse Hart, 7 North Drive, West Hartlepool.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Infant Welfare Clinic. Durham County Council Infant Welfare Clinics are held as under :—

Frederic Street Clinic—every Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.
and 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.

West View Clinic.—every Thursday 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.

Sunlight Clinic. Held every Tuesday morning at Frederic Street Clinic.

Ante-Natal Clinics. These children are attended by certain of the general practitioners of the town who see only their own patients. The clinics are held at Frederic Street and West View.

Birth Control Clinic. Durham County Council run a Birth Control Clinic which is held at Frederic Street Clinic twice a month.

School Minor Ailment Clinic. This clinic is held at Frederic Street as follows :—

Monday morning—9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.

Wednesday morning—9-30 a.m. to 11-30 a.m.

Friday morning—treatment only—no doctor in attendance.

Ophthalmic School Clinic. This clinic is held at Frederic Street.

School Dental Clinic. Held on Monday morning and afternoon and Thursday morning at Frederic Street.

Chest Clinics. The chest clinic is held at Brierton Hospital, West Hartlepool, for Hartlepool patients as follows :—

Males	} morning and afternoon—every Monday.
Females	

Children—Wednesday afternoon.

Venereal Diseases Clinic. This clinic is held at Mill House Dispensary, Stranton, West Hartlepool as follows :—

Males — Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Females—Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

In an emergency when Mill House is closed patients can be treated at the General Hospital, Middlesbrough.

Ambulance Service. The Ambulance Service in Hartlepool is a Durham County Council Service. One ambulance is stationed in Hartlepool and is controlled from the West Hartlepool Ambulance Station.

The control is continuously manned and receives calls for ambulance transport and transmits necessary instructions. Where necessary the County Ambulance is supplemented by the ambulances of West Hartlepool.

The ambulance stationed in Hartlepool covers also parts of Stockton Rural area.

Usage of Ambulance Service—Hartlepool, 1953.

	Journeys under- taken	Cases carried			Mileage Travelled
		Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
(a) By County vehicle stationed in Hartlepool	2638 (2293)	1891 (1699)	3851 (3048)	5742 (4747)	25780 (23462)
(b) By West Hartlepool Ambulance Service on behalf of County Council	105 (91)	101 (91)	12 (1)	113 (92)	778 (733)
Totals	2743 (2384)	1992 (1790)	3863 (3049)	5855 (4839)	26558 (24195)

Figures in brackets are for the year 1952.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the services of neighbouring County Depots are also utilised particularly on occasions when economy can be effected by co-ordinating journeys.

Figures of Interest as Applying on the 31st December, 1953.

Hartlepool children in the care of Durham County Council :

in Children's Homes and Nursery	..	32
in approved schools	.. ..	6

Hartlepool persons maintained by Durham County Council :

in Residential Hostels	12
------------------------	-------	----

Hartlepool persons on the Blind Register 30

Hartlepool persons who are notified Mental Defectives 38

Hartlepool persons on Tuberculosis Register .. 118

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of notifications of cases of infectious diseases and also the number of deaths for 1953 and for 1952.

Borough of Hartlepool—Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Disease	1953		1952	
	Total cases notified	Number of Deaths	Total cases notified	Number of Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	—	4	—
Measles	71	—	261	1
Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)	2	—	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	29	—
Whooping Cough	13	—	160	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	4	—
Dysentery	5	—	4	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	3	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—

The age-group distribution of cases of infectious diseases for the year 1953 :—

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	2	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
Measles	1	15	13	11	16	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	71
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	2	—	2	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

Notifiable Diseases.

The notifiable diseases which require to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health of districts under the provisions of the Public Health Acts are Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet Fever, Typhus and Enteric or Relapsing Fever.

Apart from these notifiable diseases there are others which include Plague, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia Puerperal Pyrexia, Measles and Whooping Cough.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Medical Practitioners are required to notify cases of food poisoning.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the Borough during 1953. This is for the third consecutive year.

It is only by continued propaganda that the mothers of today can be persuaded to help maintain the high level of immunisation necessary to keep diphtheria out of our midst. The absence of the disease means that the present generation of mothers only know of the disease from what they hear. This lack of actual contact with the disease does minimise in the minds of mothers the danger attached thereto and means that many mothers just do not bother to have their children immunised.

However, in spite of the fact that for several months, when the risk of infantile paralysis was greatest, no immunisation was carried out at the clinics, the figures were reasonably satisfactory.

The Health Visitors make every effort to persuade mothers to attend clinics or their own doctors for immunising and reminders are sent out by the County Council.

Immunisation of the child population in Hartlepool is carried out by the local practitioners as well as by the Medical Officer of Health. Sessions for this purpose are held by the Medical Officer of Health at Frederic Street for school children. Pre-school children are immunised at the Baby Clinics at Frederic Street and West View.

Diphtheria Immunisations carried out during the year 1953.

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5-14 years</i>	<i>Booster</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of children immunised . .	203	82	108	393

The position in the town at the end of 1953 was that 50% of the children at risk under 5 years had been protected from diphtheria by immunisation and that 65% of children from 5 to 15 years of age were protected.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 11 cases notified as Scarlet Fever during the year as compared with 4 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases notified during 1953.

Measles.

The periodicity of measles which we have come to expect in urban districts seems in the past few years to have undergone a change. As can be seen from the adjoining table the disease did have a biennial periodicity until 1950 since when we have had a large number of notifications each year until 1953 when there has been a drop.

Notified Cases of Measles—Hartlepool.

Year	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. of cases notified	59	306	254	16	426	42	380	234	261	71

Whooping Cough.

Year	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
No. of Notifications ..	2	7	36	160	13

There was during the year a big decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough notified. This may be the natural sequence of events following the large number during 1952. However, I still feel that a scheme for immunisation against this disease should be introduced by the County Council.

A large number of local health authorities are now carrying out the procedure in conjunction with diphtheria immunisation. Hartlepool Borough Council did during the year approach the County Council in an effort to introduce this preventive measure but was unsuccessful in the attempt.

It would appear, in this respect, that the Public Health Service instead of showing the way in prevention of disease, is following along the trail blazed by the general practitioners, most of whom now use the combined vaccine against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Tuberculosis.

There were during the year 24 new cases notified and there were 8 deaths from this disease.

The notifications of new cases remain at much the same level as previously. The figure of 8 deaths is a rise of 6 on the previous year but is still an improvement on what appertained a few years ago.

Chemotherapy would appear to be largely responsible for the reduced death rate but would not appear to be greatly affecting the disseminators of the disease—viz : the chronic infectious cases.

Until we can see a fall in the notifications of new cases I do not think we can be at all satisfied with the position of tuberculosis in the community.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Hartlepool for two separate weeks during the year. The figures given below show that the response was not by any means satisfactory. However, the fact that it was possible to have all school-leavers X-rayed was in itself, in my opinion, enough justification for the visit.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

**Number of Persons X-rayed and Referred to Chest Clinics
showing abnormalities found.**

MALES—

EXAMINEES	Miniature Films	Referred to Chest Clinic	N.A.D. at Chest Clinic	ABNORMALITIES FOUND		
				Active T.B.	Inactive T.B.	Bronchi- ectasis
National Service						
Recruits	137	4	4	—	—	—
Schoolchildren	339	3	2	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	258	4	1	1	1	1
Total	734	11	7	1	2	1

FEMALES—

EXAMINEES	Miniature Films	Referred to Clinic	Abnormalities Found		
			Active T.B.	Inactive T.B.	Neoplasm
Schoolchildren	403	3	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	414	10	3	2	1
Total	817	13	3	3	1

B.C.G.

The Minister of Health issued a circular towards the end of the year stating that he was prepared to approve schemes by Local Health Authorities so that they could offer B.C.G. vaccination to older children.

Such a scheme seemed to be urgently required in Hartlepool and the Council decided to press the Durham County Council to introduce one.

INFANT WELFARE SERVICES.

It must again be emphasised that the basis of these services is the work done by the Health Visitors. Again, the fact that the Health Visitor is a highly qualified nurse must be made known more generally—besides being a trained nurse she is invariably a fully-qualified midwife and has to have a Health Visitor's Certificate.

The way in which the Health Visitors may be brought to work more in conjunction with the general practitioners is at the present time giving rise to much thought and discussion. No schemes have as yet been introduced in this area but the Health Visitors are always willing to go and help the local general practitioners whenever they can.

Work done by the Health Visitors in Hartlepool during the year 1953.

Domiciliary Visits.

The total number of effective visits paid :—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare	..	..	..	..	4,246
2. Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	475
3. General Health	..	..	..	..	—
4. Mental Deficiency	..	..	..	..	142
5. School..	..	..	..	..	134
6. Ineffective Visits	..	..	..	..	148
					5,145
					5,145

Average daily number of effective visits per Health Visitor 22

Clinic, etc. Work.

Time (as days) spent :—

(a) at M. & C.W. Centres	..	..	..	..	137
(b) at Chest Clinics	..	..	..	..	47

Infant Welfare Centres.

The total numbers attending the two centres continue at much the same level as previously. There has been of course, a redistribution of attendances between the centres due to the population changes brought about by slum clearance and rehousing.

The transfer of families to West View has resulted in an increased proportion of young mothers attending the West View Clinic and a corresponding drop in the attendances at Frederic Street.

The centres have continued the work, both educational and advisory for which purpose they are maintained.

Child Welfare Centres — Attendances 1953.

Centre	Children		Children attending for first time	
	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.
Frederic Street	1568 (1927)	436 (653)	139 (155)	32 (38)
West View	1435 (1307)	244 (317)	126 (116)	20 (31)
Totals	3003 (3234)	680 (970)	265 (271)	52 (69)

Figures for 1952 are given in brackets.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year for the year 1953 was 13. The Infantile Mortality Rate was thus 36.9, an improvement on the previous year when it was 46.3.

Appendix II gives an indication of the trend in Hartlepool and offers a comparison with England and Wales as a whole.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Causes of Infant Deaths in relation to age in Hartlepool.

DISEASE	Under 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 4 wks	1 mnth. & under 3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Atelectasis and Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Haematemesis and Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Heart failure and acute congestion of lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Heart failure and Anaemia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Oedema of Brain	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erythroblastosis foetalis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

From the table it is plain that prematurity is now the main problem to be tackled. Apart from this there were 3 deaths from broncho pneumonia which could be looked upon as avoidable deaths.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held at both Frederic Street and West View Clinics. During the year only two practices in the town availed themselves of the facilities offered whereby the clinics may be used by the general practitioners for the purpose of holding an ante-natal clinic with the midwives in attendance. The table of attendance shews that there has been little change in the attendance figures over the previous years.

Ante-Natal Clinics,—Attendances 1953 with figures for 1952 in brackets.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>No. of Attendances</i>	<i>Average per Session</i>
Frederic St.	198 (193)	9 (8)
West View	38 (47)	4 (2)
Total ..	236 (240)	13 (10)

It was arranged during the year that a Health Visitor should attend these clinics whenever it was possible; the function of the Health Visitor being purely educational and in no way interfering with the work of the midwives. It was also thought that it would give the Health Visitors an opportunity to get to know the expectant mothers who they would later be visiting at their homes.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

During the year the 3 County Midwives working in the Borough attended 125 midwifery cases and 71 maternity cases—a total of 196. Figures for the previous three years are given below.

Births attended by County Midwives in Hartlepool 1951, 52 and 53.

	1951	1952	1953
Total births (live and still)	389	367	362
Cases attended as midwife	166	134	125
Cases attended as Maternity Nurse	74	58	71
Total cases attended	240	192	196

There were 166 live births in hospital—46% of the total births in the Borough.

Maternal Mortality.

There were 2 deaths under the heading Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion, during the year. This ends the long period extending from 1947 to 1952 during which period no deaths under this heading were reported.

Domestic Help Service.

This service has continued its good work in spite of the restricted number of hours available to most cases.

Domestic Help Cases during 1953.

Routine Cases.

No. of cases being assisted 1st January, 1953 ..	48
No. of new cases	35
	<hr/>
	83
No. terminated	25
	<hr/>
Cases being assisted on 31st December, 1953 ..	58
	<hr/>

Categories :—

Old Age Pensioners	48
Maternity Cases ..	16
Tuberculosis ..	<hr/>
Others	19
	<hr/>
	83
	<hr/>

In all 2,208 hours were given to this work. At the end of the year there was one case on the waiting list for assistance.

Home Nursing.

There are two nurses working in the town. From the table below the tremendous increase in the work over the past 3 years may be seen. The number of new cases dealt with during 1953 is more than double the figure for 1951 and the total number of visits made during 1953 is almost double those for 1951. These figures indicate that the nurses must be relieving the hospitals and the general practitioners of a great deal of work. It is also obvious that if the work continues to increase at the same rate then new arrangements will have to be made in the service.

**Visits by District Nurses—Borough of Hartlepool
1951, 52 and 53.**

	1951		1952		1953	
	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Visits</i>
General—						
Medical	150	4,357	262	5,630	362	6,729
Surgical	24	842	58	1,491	57	3,062
Tuberculosis	14	included in above	11	313	17	429
Others	—	98	—	191	—	—
Totals ..	188	5,307	331	7,625	436	10,220

The figures for 1953 include 312 visits to 47 patients under 5 years of age and 1,756 visits to 124 cases over 65 years. Visits for injections numbered 2,232.

Care and After Care.

During the year an attempt was made by the Hartlepool Council to persuade Durham County Council to set up a local store of articles for use in connection with home nursing. These include such things as bedpans, urinals, rubber sheets, etc.

The scheme as worked at present, requires first a request from the District Nurse to Durham for the articles and then the despatch of the article by motor vehicle from Durham City to Hartlepool, a distance of 19 miles.

The fact that these articles are usually needed in a hurry and that they could without difficulty be stored at the Frederic Street Clinic, together with the economic factor, would appear to be quite sufficient grounds for setting up local stores.

Birth Control Clinic.

During the year a Durham County Council ruling that persons living outside the County Council area should not be seen at this clinic, was strictly enforced. At the same time instructions were given to the staff that only those persons who had been referred to the clinic by a doctor, should be advised. This of course has meant a reduction in attendances.

The total number of attendances during the year was 176 and the number of new cases was 41.

In my view this type of clinic is not being utilised to its full advantage in a community unless advice is given to parents for other reasons than ill-health. I think that young parents with housing troubles ; parents with large families and parents wishing to space their families should be given advice.

Surely the function of the clinic is to prevent ill-health, and advice given to a mother who already has had 5 children in 5 or 6 years is of just as much value as that given to a mother with a pathological condition for which there is no cure. Spacing of the family is a means of reducing morbidity in the case of childbirth and as such I think parents wishing to prevent too frequent childbirth in a relatively short space of time should be advised.

Health Education.

This field of Public Health work is one in which there is much room for expansion. It, however, often depends largely on the public as to whether or not any method used is going to be of value.

The day to day individual education of the public by doctors, sanitary inspectors, Health Visitors, Nurses, Midwives etc. continues unabated. There is no doubt that this steady propaganda does bear fruit although slowly.

Other methods have now been made available to district Medical Officers of Health by the County Council. A sound-film projector is now available for the use of the Medical Officer of Health of county districts. This has been utilised in Hartlepool to show films on health topics to some of the women's organisations, in the town.

In addition a film strip projector has been used to supplement Health Visitors' advice and instruction to expectant and nursing mothers.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The School Health Service in Hartlepool is the responsibility of the Durham County Council, the Medical Officer of Health acting as School Medical Officer carrying out routine medical inspections of schoolchildren. Each child is examined 4 times during attendance at school i.e. on entry, between 8 and 9 years, at 11 years and as a leaver.

Part of the work of the School Medical Officer involves reporting on sanitation in schools, school kitchens and dining halls. During the year the condition of St. Bega's school was brought to the notice of the Hartlepool Health Committee who took up the matter with Durham County Council Education Committee and following meetings it would appear that there is some prospect of action being taken to expedite a new R.C. school being built.

A comprehensive report on the state of the sanitary conveniences in the schools in Hartlepool was also sent to the Deputy School Medical Officer requesting some action. The conveniences are such that in my view since the schools are to be used for many years to come, it is imperative that they should be brought up-to-date.

There was during the year an outbreak of ringworm of scalp. At first this was confined to certain schools and head inspections of all children in these schools was carried out with a Wood's Lamp. Several cases were found and excluded from school.

Towards the end of the year a few cases were still occurring and these were scattered indiscriminately amongst the schools and also among pre-school children. The outbreak did however appear to be subsiding.

Medical Inspection Statistics.

No. of Inspections in Prescribed Groups.

Entrants	521
8-9 years (included in other routine inspections)	
11 plus years ..	96
Leavers	259
	<hr/>
	1,344
	<hr/>

Other Routine Inspections — 468.

No. of Special Examinations — 355.

No. of children attending Clinic for treatment — 837
(2,323 attendances).

No. of children attending Clinic for examination — 968
(2,257 attendances).

**ANNUAL REPORT of the SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR for the year 1953.**

*Health Department,
Frederic Street,
Hartlepool.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is true to say that for a number of years now the preamble to my report can only be described as an indictment of the conditions governing the repair and maintenance of old houses, the frustration of trying to maintain in a habitable condition worn-out and uneconomic houses and that more emphasis should be placed on improvement and maintenance with adequate rent revision, so as to prevent the too rapid deterioration to slums which has been occurring during the past few years at a rate approximating that of new house building. It is gratifying to note that at last Parliament has recognised the position and is providing more incentive to owners to maintain their houses and it is to be hoped that authorities will implement it in a vigorous manner as there is no doubt that housing, in one form or another, is the major social problem facing local authorities at the present time, but it is questionable as to whether the incentive being offered will be sufficient.

Slum clearance and redevelopment, though only in a limited scale, has proceeded smoothly during the year and it is pleasing to be able to report that for the first time for a number of years the number of notices served shows a decline, whether this is due to milder weather or a positive programme of slum clearance it is at the present time difficult to say.

It was possible during the year to give more adequate attention to the aspects of routine work but there is little that calls for comment though the bacteriological standard of ice cream shows considerable improvement on the past but the results of a casual purchase is still somewhat unpredictable.

Providing that adequate staffing is maintained and new legislation actively implemented it would appear that the period of re-construction is now at hand.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. WARD,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The demand on the time of your staff in respect of property repairs and maintenance still continues at an abnormally high level, particularly in times of bad weather, to the detriment of other routine work, and the number of repair notices served is again in excess of the average though showing a reduction.

A total of 639 houses were inspected during the year and 1,604 re-inspections were made in respect of properties under notice. 321 informal notices were served in respect of 368 houses with regard to nuisances existing thereon and 290 such notices affecting 336 houses were complied with. On the authority of Committee 40 Statutory Notices were served in the year with respect to 42 houses and 38 such notices were complied with in respect of 39 houses. 9 houses were repaired on verbal request.

It is to be noted that 8 Statutory Notices not fully complied with were abated on default of the owner to 9 houses and the necessary action taken to recover the expenses incurred which amounted to a total of £198 17s. 11d.: charging orders were made in 2 cases for repayment to be spread over a period.

To summarise, a total of 361 notices were served in respect of 410 houses and 328 such notices were complied with to 375 houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Dwellinghouses.			<i>Inspection</i>	<i>Re-inspection</i>	<i>Total</i>
Notifiable diseases	9	—	9		
Other diseases	1	—	1		
Verminous Premises	12	1	1		
Dirty Premises	3	—	3		
Overcrowded condition.. ..	1	—	1		
Houses let in lodgings	—	—	—		
Housing and Public Health Acts	693	1,604	2,297		
Water Supply	12	13	25		
Animals, etc. kept	2	—	2		
Supervision of removals	306	—	306		
Rat-infested premises	204	217	421		
Other Premises.					
Tents, Vans, Sheds	4	12	16		
Stables	2	—	2		
Offensive trades.. ..	25	14	39		
Marine Stores	6	—	6		
Accumulation of rubbish	9	9	18		
Factories with mechanical power	88	25	113		
Factories with no mechanical power	20	5	25		

Other Premises	Inspection	Re-inspections	Total
Workplaces	13	4	17
Places of Public Entertainment	2	—	2
Sale of Rag Flock	—	—	—
Pet Animals Act	1	—	1
Schools	18	—	18

Food Premises.

Licensed Premises	41	14	55
Meat Shops	31	7	38
Provision Shops	116	38	154
Fish Shops	28	6	34
Milk Shops and Dairies	69	9	78
Restaurant Kitchens	40	11	51
Bakehouses	25	5	30
Ice-cream Premises	66	5	71

Miscellaneous—Action Taken.

No. of complaints investigated during year .. .. .	..	..	462
Informal Notices served .. .. .	..	..	321
Informal notices complied with .. .. .	..	..	290
Second or reminder notices sent .. .. .	..	..	307
Nuisances abated without service of written notice			9
Statutory notices served .. .. .	..	..	40
Statutory notices complied with .. .. .	..	..	38
Notices abated on default of owner .. .. .	..	..	8
Warning letters sent .. .. .	..	..	17
Interviews with owners .. .. .	..	..	117
Interviews with builders .. .. .	..	..	82

Sanitary Improvements and repairs effected :—

	No. Notice	By owner under notice	Council on default of owner
Houses.			
Repaired and made fit	9	366	9
Roofs repaired	1	124	4
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	1	27	1
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	1	43	2
Windows repaired and sashcords renewed	1	68	1
Pantry repaired or provided	—	—	—
Staircases repaired (internal and external)	1	15	—
Doors rehung or repaired	1	62	1
Fireplaces, ranges repaired, re-set, renewed	—	26	—
Chimneys or stacks repaired	1	20	1
New sinks provided and fixed	—	8	—

	<i>No. of Notice</i>	<i>By owner under notice</i>	<i>Council on default of owner.</i>
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	3	21	—
Water supply provided inside houses	—	1	—
Wash coppers repaired or pro- vided	21	20	—
Pumps repaired	—	1	—
Walls pointed	1	17	2
Outbuildings repaired	—	16	2
Eaves and downspouts repaired or renewed	1	63	5
Dangerous walls repaired	—	3	—
Yard paving repaired	1	8	—
Water services repaired	3	32	—
Dust bins provided	—	45	—
Animals improperly kept	—	1	—
Accumulation of rubbish	—	1	—

Verminous, etc. Premises.

Dirty houses cleansed	—	2	—
Verminous houses—bugs	12	6	—
Verminous houses—other vermin	48	—	—
Bedding etc. disinfested (lots) ..	8	—	—
Bedding etc. destroyed (lots) ..	76	—	—

Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleansed	4	42	—
New gulleys fixed in yards	—	5	—
Drains repaired and reconstructed	—	7	—
Inspection chambers built	—	2	—
W.C. basins renewed	—	8	—
W.C. pedestal basins in lieu of old type	—	5	—
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	2	49	1
W.C. compartments cleansed	—	—	—
W.C. compartments repaired	—	7	1

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Derelict Property.

During the year 9 derelict houses have been demolished by the owner.

During the past 4 years a total of 165 derelict houses have been demolished voluntarily and the majority of the sites thus cleared were subsequently acquired compulsorily by the Council and redeveloped.

Vermin Infestation.

There has been no variation in the methods used from previous years i.e. liquid and powder insecticides.

Bug-infested houses dealt with numbered 18, a number of which were properties vacated by successful applicants for new houses.

The furniture and effects of 306 tenants was inspected and disinfested as necessary prior to re-housing taking place and verminous properties thus rendered vacant were disinfested prior to re-letting.

Furniture and bedding not capable of being cleansed satisfactorily is removed and destroyed ; this action was carried out in 66 cases. The trouble and expense involved has been amply repaid in the freedom of vacated Council houses from vermin when inspected prior to re-letting.

Treatment of houses, and at times furniture, of houses affected by wood-boring beetle is becoming a seasonable occupation of the summer months when the larvae of the adult beetle is active. Remedial work is at times expensive and if there is any increase in the incidence consideration may have to be given to the economics of proofing timber used in new house building and repair work.

A total of 66 houses were treated during the year for vermin infestation as below :—

Bug-infested	20	Silver fish	2
Black beetles	27	Wood-boring beetles	10
Fleas	9		

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Standing Committee of Tees-side local authorities dealing with this problem still continues to function actively and during the year additional deposit gauges have been put into operation by different authorities. Further steps were taken during the year to try and identify, from a detailed analysis of deposited matter, particular sources of pollution and their extent. All information gathered by local authorities is collated.

The broad conclusions drawn from the operation of the 2 gauges in Hartlepool and commented on in last year's report is again emphasised by this year's readings. It is necessary to operate these gauges for a period of at least 5 years to obtain satisfactory results under all types of weather conditions.

The Gray Square gauge gives a total deposited matter of 294.5 tons for the year as against 429 tons for the previous year as compared with the West View gauge (sited in rural surroundings) of 171 tons and 207 tons respectively.

Appendix III shows the monthly record of deposited matter in the gauge.

Dust Nuisance—Chemical Works.

Certain small original kilns which had always discharged direct to the atmosphere were connected into existing dust washing and electric precipitation plant. Throughout the year, owing to corrosion of the metal precipitators referred to in last year's report, it was only possible to wash the flue gas emissions from all kilns. Whilst this does effect some diminution the resultant emission is still a nuisance. Experimental work on the precipitators continued to find an electrode that would withstand the corrosion and at the year end one precipitator was being fitted with new type electrodes and the metal sheeting protected against corrosive action of sea water.

If the modifications prove successful after a trial period the other precipitator will be likewise treated.

It is unfortunate that the whole-hearted efforts of the management have not met with more success.

Offensive Trades.

Premises — Fish Curing 6 ; Miscellaneous 2.

Two establishments carrying on the trade of fish curers had annual licences renewed for a further period of twelve months.

Informal action, indicated below, had to be taken on occasions to abate nuisance :—

Limewash	3	Sanitary accommodation	4
Water service	1	Rubbish	3

Water Supply.

The town is supplied with water by the Hartlepool Water Company from boreholes situated at two places within the district of the County Borough of West Hartlepool. Capital works carried out over the past few years have resulted in the provision of a new borehole at Naisberry, in the adjoining rural district, which has resulted in a substantial increase in the water resources of the company. Further exploratory work on these lines is also taking place.

Though the supply has been found to be at all times pure and wholesome it is of outstanding hardness and it is hoped that reduction in the hardness, which though of no public health significance, is costly both to domestic and industrial consumers, will result from the new sources of supply.

Some undesirable contamination of water, revealed by bacteriological sampling, on recently occupied houses on a new estate was probably due to new type jointing material used on jointing service mains of a substitute material. Flushing and chlorination of the affected main cleared up the condition.

Only a few houses in the rural parts are without a piped supply.

Report on water sample from supply :—

	<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Chlorine as Chlorides	15.0000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.0851
Ammonia	0.0066
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0042
Oxygen Absorption	0.0323
Injurious Metals	None
Total Solid Matter dried @ 100°C.	90.0000
pH value of Sample	7.3
<hr/>	
Temporary Hardness	25.0 Degrees
Permanent Hardness	16.8 „
<hr/>	
Colour of sample on Hazen Scale	3
Appearance of Sample in 2-foot tube ..	Not quite bright
Odour when heated to 50°C... ..	None
<hr/>	

Microscopical Examination.

Satisfactory.

Observations.

The chemical analysis of this sample is perfectly normal for a supply, and it very satisfactory insofar that it affords no evidence of undesirable drainage, when judged by the fact that the Nitrogen, the Ammonia, the Albuminoid Ammonia and the Oxygen Absorbed, are so low and there is no indication of the presence of organic matters. Moreover, the result of the microscopical examination is perfectly satisfactory and, in my opinion, the sample is of good and wholesome quality for all domestic purposes.

Below is given a typical bacteriological report :—

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C.	
aerobically	0 per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli, McConkey	
2 days 37°C.	0 per 100 ml.
Probable number of faecal coli	0 per 100 ml.

The sample is of a high order of purity when judged both by the results of the chemical analysis and the bacteriological examination and it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-1952.

Slum Clearance.

In addition to the proposed compulsory purchase order and a clearance order, mentioned in last year's report, an additional compulsory purchase order had to be made in respect of a small area of 7 houses to facilitate redevelopment of land previously acquired. After a public enquiry, at which there were few objectors, the Council's orders were confirmed by the Minister. These areas represent the first of the slum clearance areas, as distinct from 'tidying-up' operations of pre-war sites, of the Council's post-war programme. This programme drawn up in 1947 is being implemented as planned.

Subject to the allocation of new houses for slum clearance rehousing, clearance and redevelopment has proceeded smoothly during the year and at the year end 182 houses had been built, or were in the course of erection on cleared sites on the headland.

52 houses were demolished during the year and 160 persons resident therein displaced.

The problem of accommodation for single occupants of both sexes, some aged, but with preponderance of men who need supervision was receiving active consideration at the year end, and with every prospect of an early solution. It has not proved possible to acquire and adopt existing premises economically and the provision of hostel accommodation properly staffed is likely to prove very costly and beyond the reach of the type of person it is designed to help.

This class of person, in practice, gravitate to low class housing either for economic reasons or due to apathy and as the majority appear to have no interested relatives or great interest in life do in time deteriorate to such an extent as sooner or later need institutional treatment.

Individual Unfit Houses.

During the year 5 closing orders and 1 demolition order affecting 7 houses were made and 8 families totalling 29 persons were rehoused.

In addition to the making of formal closing orders, informal action secured the voluntary closure of 25 houses and the rehousing of 21 families of 84 persons. The House Management Committee rehouse on my certificate as to the insanitary conditions of the house and on a written undertaking from the owner not to re-let; 7 houses thus vacated were demolished voluntarily and 16 are sited in a proposed slum clearance area.

Overcrowding.

It is impossible to give an accurate picture of the present overcrowding position without carrying out a fresh survey.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Part A.—Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936).

	<i>No. of dwellinghouses</i>		<i>No. of persons displaced</i>
	<i>Unfit houses</i>	<i>Other houses</i>	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	50	—	151
(2) Land coloured "grey"	—	2	9

Part B.—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

	<i>No. of</i>	
	<i>houses</i>	<i>persons displaced</i>
Demolition and Closing Orders.		
(1) Housing Act, 1936—		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	10	17
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	—	—
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	7	19
(2) Housing Act, 1949—		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	—	—
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	—	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	—	—

Repairs.	<i>No. of Houses</i>
INFORMAL ACTION.	
(4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	345
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.	
(5) Public Health Acts—	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by local authority in default of owners . .	3
(6) Housing Act, 1936—	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—	
(a) by owners	28
(b) by local authority in default of owners . .	6

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1937-1952.

Food Premises.

<i>Type of Establishment and No. at year end</i>	<i>Prov. Shops</i>	<i>Fish Shops</i>	<i>Bake- houses</i>	<i>Catering</i>	<i>Licensed Premises</i>	<i>Butchers Shops</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	75	13	14	22*	37	18	179
No. Registered Sec. 14	—	3	—	—	—	7	10
Defects Remedied—							
Lack Cleanliness ..	8	2	—	3	—	2	15
„ Hot Water ..	4	2	1	1	—	—	8
„ Soap & Towels ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
„ Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Lighting ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
No Hot Water fitted ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
No sink and/or defective	2	2	—	1	1	—	6
Defective decoration ..	4	4	4	1	—	3	16
Defective San. Accommod.	3	—	1	1	10	2	17
„ drains ..	1	—	—	4	6	—	11
„ Water Supply	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
„ Ventilation ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
„ Structure ..	7	—	1	—	5	2	15
„ Bins ..	2	3	—	1	—	—	6
Rubbish ..	6	—	—	1	—	—	7
Animals kept ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals Defects ..	46	13	8	14	24	9	114
Total Inspections ..	154	34	30	51	55	38	362

*Private 11; Works 4; School 7.

It was only necessary to serve 7 written notices in respect of defects discovered and all defects at the varying types of premises, as detailed in the table above, were remedied informally.

There were no prosecutions during the year for contravention of the Act or regulations.

All 3 major works canteens have been persuaded to provide and operate dish-washing and sterilising machines—the last one was fitted this year. At the year end a new works canteen was being built to replace the existing one in obsolete premises.

Ice cream premises registered for retail sale are nearly all provision shops.

Premises registered are given below :—

Premises registered for manufacture of ice cream	3
Premises „ „ sale of ice cream	58
Premises „ and selling ice cream	41

and a total of 71 inspections were made from this class of trade ;
11 premises being registered for the first time during the year.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

21 inspections of meat and other foods were carried out during the year at retail shops and canteens and weight of food condemned amounted to 4 cwts. 1st. 2 lbs.

Food condemned :—

Miscellaneous canned goods	..	..	2 st.
Tinned Fruit	..	..	17 st. 2 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	..	..	1 st. 12 lbs.
Meat	..	..	9 st. 1 lb.
Miscellaneous goods	..	..	3 st. 8 lbs.

There are no slaughterhouses in the town and centralised slaughtering is carried out in the adjoining town of West Hartlepool.

Condemned food is destroyed by the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT REGULATIONS), 1924.

No formal action was called for under this regulation during the year. It is regrettable that so little improvement has been effected in the time that has elapsed since the Council made representations to the appropriate departments as to the mode of retail delivery of meat from the centralised slaughterhouses in the neighbouring town. The vehicle still in use compares very unfavourably with specific purpose vans provided by proprietary firms for the conveyance of their own products.

Milk and Dairies' Regulations, 1949-1953.

Persons and premises registered under the above orders at the year end are as follows :—

Distributors with retail dairy premises in the town	4
Distributors with no retail premises in the town	6
	— 10
Retail purveyors of bottled milk only from shops	47

One dairy was registered during the year.

There was a net increase of 1 distributor (bottled milk only).

All premises continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition but warnings had to be issued on several occasions with regard to stacking milk crates on the ground in contravention of the regulations.

All of the milk on sale is bottled graded milk, a very satisfactory state of affairs.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949-1953.

Licences granted under these orders and in force at the year end are as follows :—

		<i>Dealers' Licences</i>	<i>Supplementary Licences</i>
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	..	13	3
Pasteurised Milk	.. ..	15	3
Sterilised Milk ..	.. ..	47	2
Tuberculin-Tested	.. ..	4	—

Both the T.T. Pasteurised and Pasteurised milk on sale in the town are each derived from 3 sources and the supply position and the quality was well maintained.

There was a net increase of 10 licences issued during the year all of which related to the sale of bottled milk from shops.

Purity of Milk Supplies—Bacteriological Examination.

T.T. Pasteurised Milk :—Of 21 samples submitted for examination 3 failed the Methylene Blue test as to keeping quality and 4 others the Phosphatase test as to efficiency of pasteurising.

Pasteurised Milk. 27 samples were submitted of which 3 failed the Methylene Blue test and 6 others the Phosphatase test.

A representative number of these samples were of school milks.

Tuberculin-Tested Milk :—Though only 6 samples were taken 5 failed the prescribed Methylene Blue test.

Sterilised Milk :—2 samples submitted both passed the test.

One firm of producers of T.T. Pasteurised milk were warned in writing and the area manager seen as to the unsatisfactory results of the samples.

With regard to the Tuberculin-Tested milk one source of supply was immediately discontinued on receipt of unsatisfactory results and the dealer of a second supply warned in writing at the year end with regard to the repeated unsatisfactory sample results.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATED) REGULATIONS, 1949-52.

There are 3 registered manufacturers of ice cream in the town but 2 use a proprietary cold mix and the third a pasteurised mix in adequate dairy premises. In actual practice though little ice cream is now manufactured the practice is to obtain supplies wholesale.

The majority of ice cream on sale is pre-packed.

Out of a total of 53 samples submitted for bacteriological examination for provisional grading only 35 could be considered satisfactory but it should be emphasised that the majority of the unsatisfactory samples are from 2 producers. One large scale producer was having plant trouble in the Autumn and had enlisted the help of a consultant laboratory service to trace the cause of the repeated failure in what had previously been a satisfactory product, and the facts relating to the other were reported to the authority in whose area the ice cream is produced; this latter product has been consistently unsatisfactory.

Though the overall results show a considerable improvement over previous ones it is still not possible to obtain a sample with any degree of certainty that it will be satisfactorily graded.

Detailed results are tabulated below :—

	<i>Sample</i>		<i>Results</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	
No. of producers' sampled	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
11	19	16	11	7

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1944.

Little arose during the year that calls for comment. Some difficulty has been experienced in persuading employers to provide adequate sanitary accommodation on building sites at the commencement of building operations prior to accommodation in a house becoming available.

Most factories now maintain adequate supervision, and more voluntary modernisation and improvements, that could not be called for under legislation, were carried out.

For the first time notifications were received in respect of 2 outworkers engaged in the clothing industry.

Details of inspections carried out and defects discovered are indicated in the following table :—

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	20	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	96	14	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	17	1	—
TOTAL	80	133	19	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	rem- edied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	4	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	14	13	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	18	19	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Work under this Act was maintained at a steady level comparable with last year but it did prove possible to carry out a little more survey work of properties for evidence of infestation. Quite a proportion of infested domestic premises is accounted for by the development of virgin farm land for housing purposes which called for treatment of building sites and adjoining land.

Other infestation of dwellinghouses was principally sporadic in nature.

Action as to proofing of premises had to be taken on several occasions but no formal action under the Act was called for.

Types of infested areas dealt with other than houses are as below :—

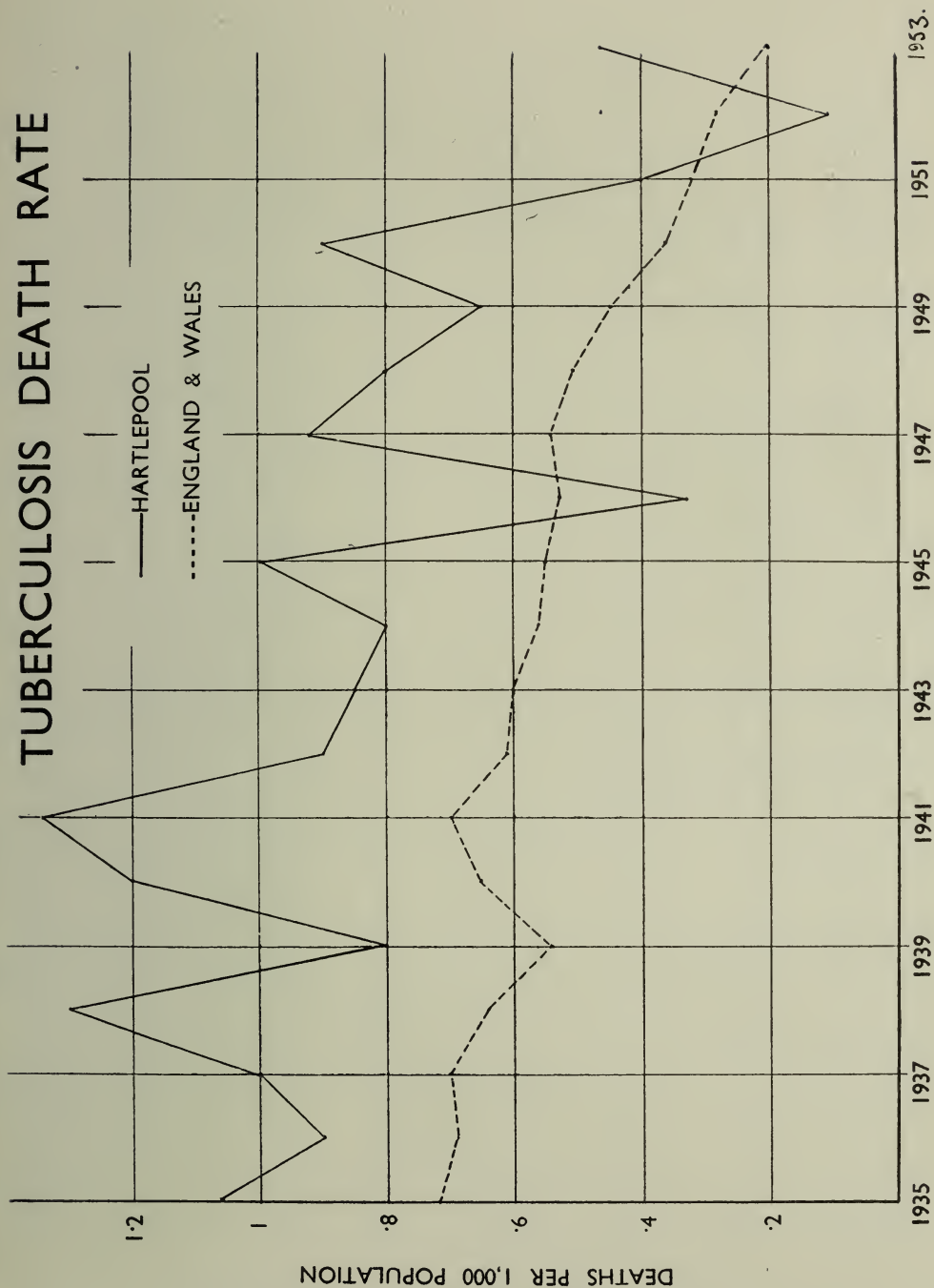
Industrial premises	3	Food Shops	4
Tips	1	Business premises	1
Allotments	1	Restaurants	1
Hospitals	1	Building Sites	2
Licensed premises	5		

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	TOTAL
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ..	47	4749	4	613	5393
II Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result	(a) 13	125	—	8	146
(a) of Notification or (b) otherwise... ..	(b) 2	51	—	5	58
III Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	2 Major	13	—	1	16
	13 Minor	93	—	8	114
IV Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice..	—	20	—	2	22
V Number of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority	15	126	—	11	152
VI Number of Notices served under Section 4 :—					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	1	—	1	2
VII Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under section 4	—	—	—	—	—
VIII Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
IX Number of "block" control schemes carried out	8				

Number of dead rats recovered—poison 401
 —traps 183 Total 584.
 Number of dead mice recovered — 159

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

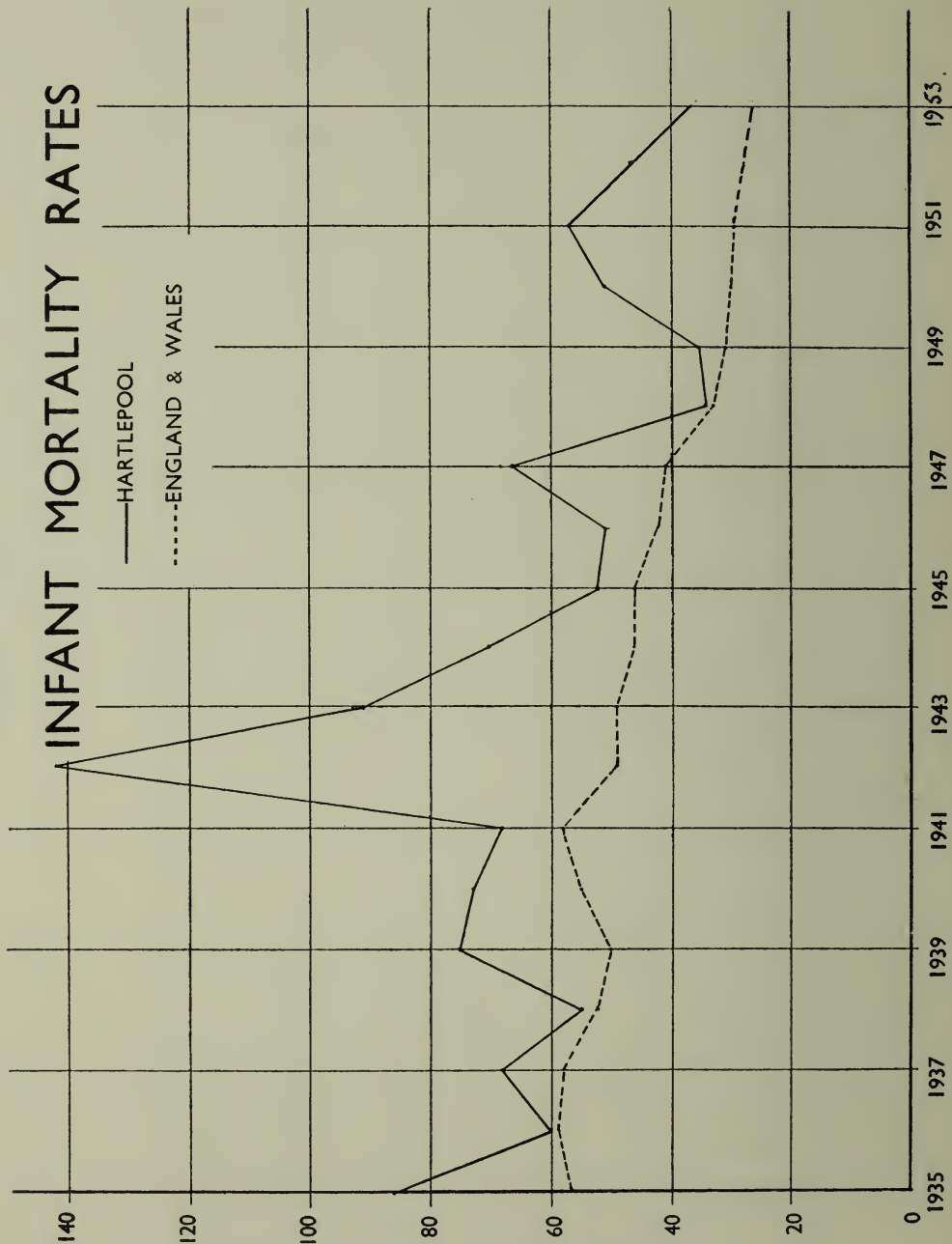


APPENDIX II

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

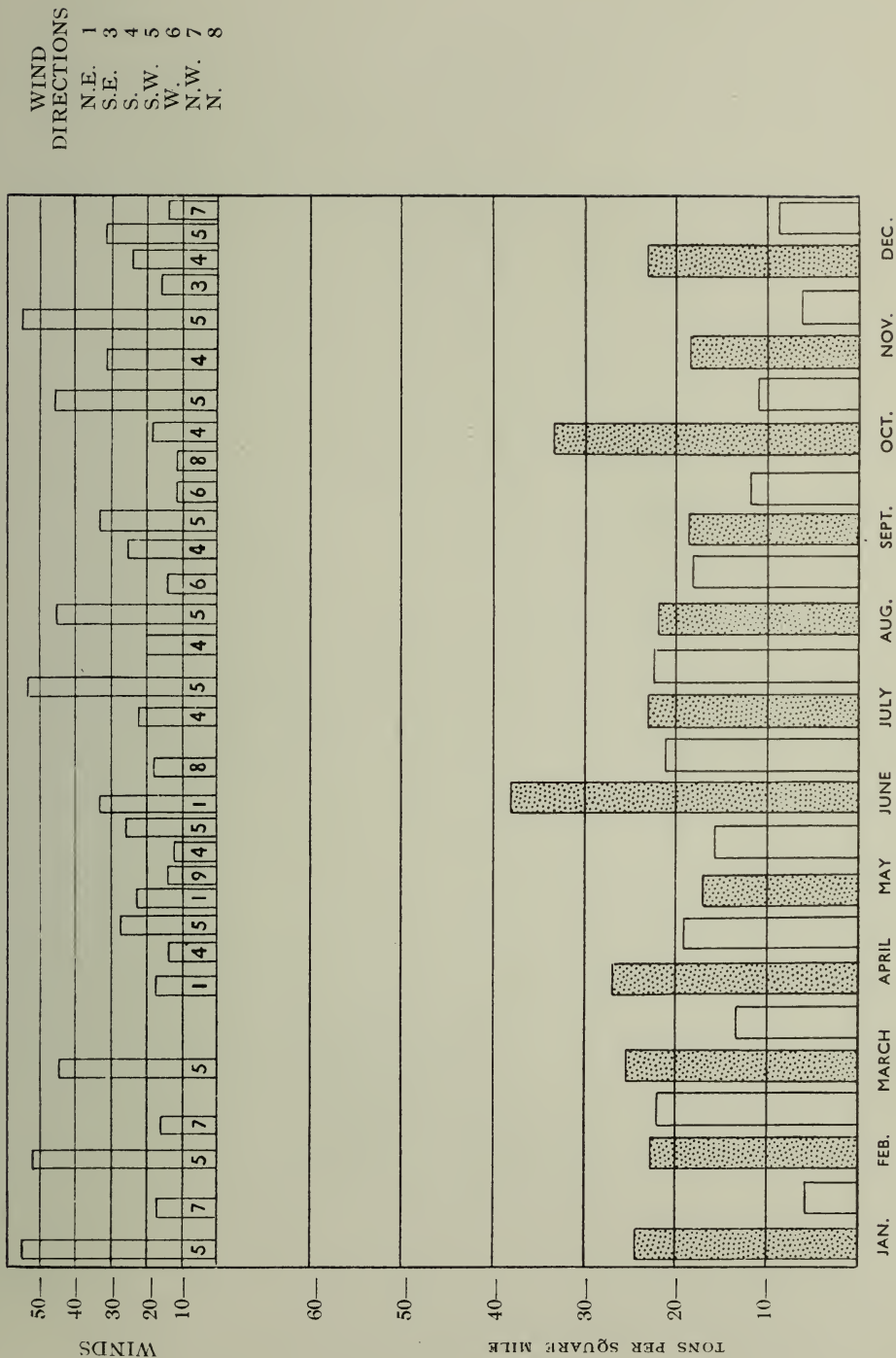
—HARTLEPOOL
 -----ENGLAND & WALES

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS



Monthly Record Deposited Matter, tons sq. mile and percentage Prevailing Winds (over 10%)
 GRAY SQUARE (shaded columns)—Total Rainfall 14·35"; Deposited Matter—294 Tons square mile
 NEW CEMETERY —Total Rainfall 16·67"; Deposited Matter—170 Tons square mile

APPENDIX III



Mr W. Mason, 53 Southgate, Hartlepool.